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Executive Registry

THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

76-3774

The Honorable Leo Cherne
Chairman, President's Foreign Intelligence
Advisory Board
The White House
Room 340, Old Executive Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20500

22 OCT 1976

Dear Leo:

You have probably already seen the attached account of the competitive analysis experiment published by William Beecher in the Boston Globe, Washington Star, and presumably other newspapers, on 20 October. I am deeply concerned at this leak for several reasons. First, it threatens to turn a sensitive matter within the Intelligence Community into a public political issue. Second, it is yet another in a series of leaks that together constitute an unwarranted attack on the integrity of the intelligence process, on the Central Intelligence Agency, and on the dedicated intelligence officers of all agencies that contribute to that process. Finally, these leaks encourage the continued erosion of security discipline within the Federal Government.

While I am disturbed at the present story, I am even more disturbed at the possibility that the findings of Dr. Pipes' group may also be made available to Beecher by the same knowledgeable source. The members of the group were chosen in accordance with PFIAB's expressed wishes. They have a common view of the USSR and their product--predictably--reflects it. The publication of these views in the foreshortened and often garbled style of newspaper reporting could only have a destructive effect on our efforts to improve the estimative process and to acquire a better understanding of Soviet motivations.

We have sought throughout to conduct this experiment in a professional manner and in full accord with the Board's specifications, and the Board has expressed its satisfaction with our progress. Further leaks, particularly concerning substantive issues, would undermine the utility of the study--and might even jeopardize its successful completion.

I have asked [] to consult with Dr. Pipes and, on behalf of Dr. Pipes and myself, to call each of the participants on his team to express my concern. I am also requesting Mr. Paisley to express this same concern to the chairmen of the other two teams, and to ask them in turn to communicate with their team members about it.

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I also request your assistance in this regard. Specifically, I request that members of the Board who are acquainted with the participants in Dr. Pipes' team express directly to them the concern I am sure you share with us.

Sincerely,



George Bush

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LETTER to Leo Cherne re Beecher article of 20 Oct on competitive analysis experiment.

Distribution:

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- 1 - William J. Casey (PFIAB)
- 1 - Brent Scowcroft (Asst to Pres for Nat'l Sec Affairs)
- 1 - Dr. Richard E. Pipes
- 1 - DCI
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